



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] I oppose the leasing of drilling rights in the Coastal Plain

1 message

Brenna Wardell <brennwrite@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 8:33 PM

To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a former resident of Alaska who understands the importance of protecting its environment for the economic and physical well-being of Alaskans, I strongly oppose the leasing of drilling rights for oil and gas in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I oppose this action due to the very real possibility of significant environmental destruction in the event of oil/gas leaks, as well as the damage that will be caused to a fragile and valuable ecosystem and to the health of local communities in the process of the exploration for oil and gas, the development of infrastructure to facilitate this, and the extraction and transportation of it. One has only to look at the many environmental disasters that have occurred in Alaska and Outside, from the Exxon Valdez in Alaska to the BP oil spill in the Gulf, as well as the numerous, often little-reported, smaller spills and explosions that have cost the lives of people and animals and wrecked local economies, to realize that this is a poor decision that will not benefit Alaskans in the long-term.

Furthermore, even if such damage were extremely unlikely to occur, the ever-increasing threat of climate change, from melting sea ice to unstable permafrost, makes any development and extraction a more difficult and dangerous act. And, of course, burning oil and gas will only worsen the damage of climate change, which is already having a significant impact on Alaskan communities and the world as a whole.

A full environmental review must take place before an action is taken, and any evidence found in this review must be made open for public review. If drilling goes forward, it should go forward in the smallest possible area with maximum oversight and any spills, leaks, or any other environmental damage should mean that all activity (exploration, drilling, etc.) must immediately cease and a thorough review take place with the understanding that all drilling rights can be revoked for improper compliance with environmental standards.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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